4-11-02

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named

Inventor

Laurence Lee et al.

Appln. No.

09/917,433

Filed

July 27, 2001

Title

APPARATUS AND PROCESS FOR COATING

PARTICLES

Docket No.

P430.12-0002

TRECEIVED
TO 1700

Group Art Unit

Examiner:

Rebecca A. Blanton

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SENT VIA EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail No.: EL328156522US

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 24, 2002. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 13, 26 and 30 (marked up version attached in Appendix), such that pending claims 13-19 and 26-30 are as follows:

13. (Twice Amended) A process for coating particles comprising:

providing an insert within an upward flowing fluid bed dryer or granulator with a screen across the bottom of the dryer or granulator, the insert comprising a vertically adjustable cylindrical partition located substantially on a vertical axis of the granulator or dryer, a spray nozzle with a heated liquid line and an atomizing gas line connected thereto which is positioned such that a liquid is sprayed within the adjustable cylindrical partition at a selected temperature. the spray nozzle being positioned in a non-heat conducting relation to the bottom screen, the spray nozzle being located substantially on the vertical axis;

loading the dryer with a bed of particles: